

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 09388 241734Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 /074 W

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R 241655Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8444

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

CONFIDENTIAL QUITO 9388

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, EC

SUBJECT: GOE HARDENS POLICY ON LABOR DISPUTES

1. ON DEC. 23 EMPLOYEES OF ANGLO PETROLEUM AND THE CENTRAL BANK DECLARED STRIKES DEMANDING SALARY RAISES AND OTHER ITEMS. ACCORDING TO PRESS AND OTHER ACCOUNTS, THE GOE ACTED QUICKLY BY SENDING POLICE INTO ANGLO'S SANTA ELENA REFINERY AND GUAYAQUIL FACILITIES AND ALSO EXPELLING STRIKING WORKERS FROM THE CENTRAL BANK IN QUITO.

2. IN WIDELY REPORTED STATEMENTS MADE DURING A DEC. 23 CABINET MEETING, PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT THE GOE CANNOT ACCEPT PRESSURES IN THE FORM OF STRIKES AND THAT IT WILL REACT STRONGLY TO SUPPRESS ILLEGAL STRIKE ACTION.

3. COMMENT: FOLLOWING THREE SUCCESSIVE CAPITULATIONS TO STRIKING WORKERS (TEACHERS, TRANSPORT WORKERS AND POSTAL WORKERS) THE GOE APPARENTLY FELT OBLIGED TO SIGNAL THAT IT WOULD NO LONGER ACCEDE TO LABOR PRESSURE IN THE FORM OF STRIKES. THIS ACTION FOLLOWS RATHER STRONG PRESS CRITICISM AGAINST THE GOE FOR ITS ACTION IN AGREEING TO VIRTUALLY ALL LABOR DEMANDS IN THE THREE RECENT STRIKES. NEITHER TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION INVOLVED IN THE DEC. 23 STRIKES HAS THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHS OF THOSE

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UNIONS WHICH HAD SUCCESSFULLY STRUCK TO ACHIEVE SALARY

INCREASES.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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